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EDITORIAL COMMENT



SIMPLER METHODS

THE swing of the pendulum in every-day life during the last few years has been decidedly in favor of the simplification of living.

One of its notable instances is in household decoration. Rooms which we formerly saw filled to overflowing with bric-à-brac and ornate, dust-gathering furniture have been reduced to their lowest terms in the way of decoration, giving us a sense of relief both mental and physical.

The elaboration and extravagance of the nation's food will doubtless show as much change, although less apparent; and if we are vouchsafed a few glimmers of common sense in the clothing of our bodies, we may hope that bare existence may gradually become less burdensome.

It remained for an earnest French clergyman to sound the note of warning which the whole world heeded.

However, this tendency toward simplicity has been slowly gathering force in a quiet way, unknown to the general public, in the great practice of surgery, for an even longer period than Pastor Wagner's famous sermons.

The chief apostles of simplicity in surgery have been two brothers in a Western village, who by precept and example have called widespread attention to their creed of simplicity and economy, making their little town a Mecca for the surgeons of the whole world. It is interesting to note that nurses are also making this pilgrimage, and likewise amusing to hear their expressions of gratitude for the spread of a doctrine which many of them have long held, though they have been unable to get an audience to listen to their pleadings.

The first real hearing they had was the notable paper by Miss Samuels, of the Roosevelt Hospital, New York, apropos of the deficits

of some of the large hospitals of the country, and it certainly is especially gratifying to the many women in executive positions who wrestle with the problem of hospital maintenance to find the doctrine of simplicity and economy gaining headway. May we live to see the day when glass, nickel, and marble may be less important, and more thought given to the diet and general comfort of the patient!

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION: LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE LAWS IN OPERATION

IN opening up the general review of the subject of state registration, we had intended to commence with a criticism of the bills now in operation, in the order in which they were passed. There has been some delay in getting the material together, because of the holiday season and for various other causes, and we are unable to continue the discussion fully in this issue, as announced.

North Carolina.—Of the administration of the law in North Carolina, we have some interesting facts, which we give at this time. The North Carolina nurses succeeded in securing the passage of a law for the state registration of nurses a number of weeks earlier than New Jersey and New York. The bill as it finally came out of the legislature was very much amended, and we have understood it was not at all in the form in which it was presented. In the passage of the North Carolina bill, the workers had no fund from which to draw. The first year after the law went into effect the fees did not amount to enough to pay the expenses, and each member of the board paid his or her own bills for travelling, etc. The members now receive four dollars per day, with travelling expenses, while engaged in the work of the board, the fees being paid out of the five dollars registration fee.

The bill, although one of great limitations, has had a tendency to arouse a greater interest in the careful instruction of nurses, and the training-schools within the state express themselves as willing to make any changes necessary to render their graduates ready for registration. The bill as it passed did not make a diploma compulsory, but we understand that none but graduate nurses have come forward to take the examination. The proposed amendments to the statute which are to be presented to the legislature this winter ask that a diploma from a general hospital be required of all applicants for examination. There has been no provision made for the inspection of training-schools.

We have to take into consideration that the North Carolina nurses